

REMARKS

Careful consideration has been given by the applicants to the Examiner's comments and objections and rejections as set forth in the outstanding Office Action, pertaining to the specification and claims.

Applicants note the requirement for the submission of a certified copy of a foreign application, pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §119(b), and the certified copy will be submitted in due course as soon as received from the foreign associates.

Applicants further note the Examiner's objections to the disclosure with regard to formal matters on pages 7 and 14 and appropriate amendatory action has been taken in that regard.

Applicants further note the objections to the amendments filed August 18, 2003 under 35 U.S.C. §132 in that it allegedly introduces new matter into the disclosure. In particular, the Examiner objects to the term "any device or sensor" in defining the force transducer.

However, the foregoing merely clarifies the aspects of a force transducer, which are generally known in various types of applications in diverse technologies, and basically are adapted to provide information concerning the amount of pressure being imparted thereto, such as by the stamp device pursuant to the present invention. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request the Examiner's reconsideration of the position that the mention of any pressure means or sensor constitutes new matter, since it merely explains or elucidates the term "force transducer".

Applicants further note the other minor objections to the specification and appropriate amendatory action has been taken in that regard.

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Concerning the claims, applicants gratefully note the Examiner's indication that at least Claims 11-13, 14 and 15 and 23-26 would be allowed if rewritten in either independent form or made dependent from an allowable main claim, and to also obviate the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112 pertaining to antecedent terminology and other minor formal aspects.

Accordingly, in order to place the application into substantial order for allowance, applicants have cancelled Claims 1-30 without prejudice and in lieu thereof herewith present new Claims 31-47, wherein Claim 31, the primary independent claim comprises the subject matter of allowable Claim 11 rewritten in independent form.

The remaining claims have also been amended so as to be dependent from an allowable independent claim, either directly or indirectly, as required, and the newly presented claims have taken cognizance of the formalities set forth in the Office Action and corrective action has been taken concerning the revisions in terminology to obviate the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112.

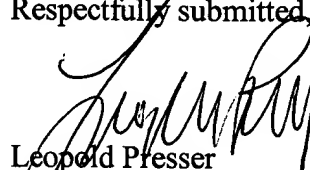
Furthermore, with regard to the claims which have been rejected in view of the prior art, these have been deleted without prejudice, and upon allowance of the present application applicants reserve the right to file a continuation application directed at the claims which have been cancelled from the present application by this Amendment.

In view of the foregoing comments and amendments, applicants respectfully submit that the application is considered to be in condition for allowance, and the early issuance of the Notice of Allowance by the Examiner is earnestly solicited. However, in the event that the Examiner has any queries concerning the instantly submitted Amendment, applicants' attorney respectfully requests that he be accorded the courtesy of possibly a telephone conference to discuss any matters in need of attention.

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Finally, applicants also include a Change of Correspondence Address to be filed in the present application, whereby all further correspondence is to be forwarded to the undersigned at Scully, Scott, Murphy & Presser, as set forth therein.

Respectfully submitted



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